

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/785,271

Examiner

John Pezzlo

Applicant(s)

ALLWRIGHT ET AL.

Art Unit

2662

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 2/20/2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 2.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 February 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: UK 0030446.9 12/14/2000.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/4/2001
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Larry S. Nixon on 28 July 2004.

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. Claim 1 – Line 13, deleted "a predetermined sync pattern" and inserted in its place -- said predetermined sync pattern --.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 2 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants have claimed uniquely distinct features in the instant invention, which are not found in the prior art,

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either singularly or in combination. The independent claim identifies the following uniquely distinct features:

1. Regarding claim 1 - Providing a head pointer indicating progressively where entries are to be written to the FIFO memory, providing a tail pointer indicating progressively where entries are to be read from the FIFO memory, for each packet stored in the memory, writing a status word including status data and a sync pattern, for each packet to be read from the memory reading the respective status word, determining whether the sync pattern matches a predetermined sync pattern, and forwarding the packet when said status word meets predetermined criteria including match between the sync pattern and said predetermined sync pattern, preventing forwarding of said packet when said status word fails to meet said predetermined criteria

The closest prior art, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Claims 1 and 2 being allowable, **Prosecution On The Merits Is Closed** in this application.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Narad et al. discloses (US 6,157,955) packet processing system including a policy engine having a classification unit.
2. Hamstra et al. (US 5,608,869) discloses method and apparatus for reliable description chaining in a media access control/host system interface unit.
3. Pitot et al. (US 5,375,142) discloses a method and device for detecting and checking the template of digital messages transmitted to a receive device.
4. Nelson et al. (US 4,679,191) discloses variable bandwidth switching.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Pezzlo whose telephone number is (703) 306-5420. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou, can be reached on (703) 305-4744. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C.

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or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306

For informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"

Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

Receptionist (Sixth floor)

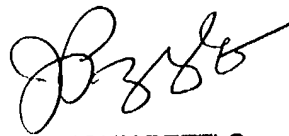
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Arlington, VA.

John Pezzlo

29 July 2004



JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER